THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Regional Director, Kanpur, had earlier sought vide his letter dated 29-7-19865, the explanation of M/s. Apparel Export Promotion Council for the alleged violation of conditions of the licence issued under Sec. 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, in not complying with the provisions of the Memorandum of Association of the Council. The reply of the Council dated 8-8-1985. has been examined and in the light of legal advice, the Regional Director. Kanpur, vide his Notice dated 20-11-1985, has called upon the Council to show cause within 30 days as to why the licence granted under Sec: 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, should not be revoked for violating the provisions of the Memorandum of Association of the Council.

**Oil Exploration in Bay of Bengal**

839. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides ONGC, some foreign companies had explored oil in the Bay of Bengal in the past;

(b) if so, the quantum of foreign exchange involved so far in such explorations;

(c) whether Government are thinking of entrusting more off-sore explorations to these companies; and

(d) if so, details of the areas and the amount of foreign exchange involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Two foreign companies namely, M/s. Carlsberg Natomas, USA and M/s. Asamera Group of companies of Canada had undertaken drilling operations in the Bay of Bengal in 1976-77/1977-78 respectively.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) to (d) Government is considering inviting fresh bids from foreign oil companies for exploration and production of oil. The terms and conditions are yet to be finalised.

**Delay in supply of Cooking Gas**

840. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cooking gas connection holders in the country have to wait for weeks for the supply of cooking gas by the dealers and on that account those gas connection holders are put to considerable inconvenience;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against such dealers who put the gas connection holders to considerable inconvenience; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take in order to stop this malpractice and also to ensure the regular supply of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (c) LPG distributors are under instructions from the oil companies to supply refills within 48 hours of a customer request. While this normally does happen, there are times when delays occur in some areas owing to problems in respect of bottling, industrial relations, transportation etc. The oil companies endeavour to solve these problems as speedily as possible in order to restore normalcy of supplies. Action under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines, ranging from caution/warning letters and debit for missing equipment to terminattion of distributorships is taken against erring distributors by the oil companies.

Infrastructural facilities like bottling capacity, transportation facilities, dealership network etc. are being augmented under LPG Phase-III Project with a view to ensuring improved supplies of LPG.

**Badarpur Thermal Power Plant**

841. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Capacity Utilisation Factor of Badarpur Thermal Power Plant has declined from 49.1 in 1982-83 to 36.7 in the current year;

(b) if so, what steps were taken in these years to improve its performance and with what results; and

(c) the names of public sector Thermal and Hydel Power stations in various States, the capacity utilisation of which have declined in the last 2 years giving the figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Capacity utilisation factor of Badarpur Thermal Power Plant has come down from 49.1 per cent in 1982-83 to 39.1 per cent during April—October 1985.

(b) The corrective actions taken to improve the performance of the Power Station include removal of design inadequacies in 100 MW Units, replacement of reperator stator of Unit-V of 210 MW, providing additional coal handling facilities and initiation of renovation and modernisation programme. These would contribute to improvement in the capacity utilisation.

(c) Names of Thermal Power Stations under public sector in which there is declining trend in capacity utilisation during 1983-84 and/or 1984-85 as compared to 1982-83 are given in Statement-I (*See below*) Capacity utilisation is not a parameter for judging the performance of the Hydel Power Stations. Hence, names of Hydel Stations where the generation has shown declining trend during 1983-84 and/or 1984-85 as compared to 1982-83 are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

**Statement—I**

*Names of Thermal Power Stations under Public Sector in which there is declining trend in capacity utilisation during* 1983-84 *for* 1984-85 *as compared to* 1982-83 :

| Thermal Power Station | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| *Central Sector* : | | | |
| Badarpur | 49·1 | 48·7 | 47·9 |
| Singrauli STPS | 64·2 | 55·7 | 59·3 |
| Korba STPS | .. | 62·1 | 52·2 |
| Chandrapura (DVC) | 50·5 | 54·3 | 52·8 |
| Durgapur (DVC) | 46·2 | 35·0 | 40·3 |
| Bokaro (DVC) | 51·3 | 54·0 | 51·0 |